

HQ U.S. Army Installation Management Agency, Europe Region



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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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IMA-E and USAREUR Connelly Winners to be recognized

Heidelberg, GE –The Installation Management Agency-Europe (IMA-EURO) and U.S. Army, Europe (USAREUR) will present the 38th Annual Philip A. Connelly Awards to the winners of the European Region for Excellence in Army Food Service on December 8, 2005 at the Village Pavilion, Patrick Henry Village, Heidelberg. The ceremony will begin at 9 a.m.

Col. Douglas Earle, the IMA-EURO Deputy Director, and Col. Catherine M. Cutler, Division Chief for Plans and Operations, USAREUR G-4, will present the honors to their respective command winners.

Winner, Large Garrison Dining Facility Category, IMA-EURO

U.S. Army Garrison Dining Facility, Camp Normandy, Grafenwoehr, representing the U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr and 7th Army Training Center.

Winner, Small Garrison Dining Facility Category, IMA-EURO

1st Battalion, 10th Special Forces Group and the 554th MP Company Dining Facility, Panzer Kaserne, Stuttgart, representing U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart.

Winner, Field Kitchen Category, USAREUR

29th Support Group, 21st Theater Support Command, Rhine Ordnance Barracks, U.S. Army Garrison Kaiserslautern.

These three organizations will represent Europe at Department of the Army and the International Food Service Executive Association (IFSEA) level competition. Judges will visit the dinning facilities between September and December 2005.

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Connelly Awards Ceremony

The Philip A. Connelly Award Program for Excellence in Army Food Service was established in March 1968 to promote and recognize excellence in Army Food Service with the co-sponsorship of the IFSEA.

The Connelly competition is comprised of three active duty garrison categories.

- Small dining facilities -- facilities with a capacity to serve 400 soldiers or less.
- Large dining facilities -- capacity to serve more than 400 soldiers.
- Field Kitchen -- food service operations conducted in the field.

The Connelly Awards Program has served to increase the quality of Army food service and to officially recognize the skill and professionalism of food service workers.

The program is named after Philip A. Connelly. Connelly was a professional in the food service management field and former president of the International Food Service Executive Association (IFSEA). He worked throughout his life to promote professionalism in the food service, in both the civilian industry and military service. As a result, civilian and military food service programs are more closely aligned and personnel in these programs now have uniform goals in education, training, career development and job opportunities.

The IFSEA is a professional organization dedicated to raising food standards, educating members and future industry leaders. They place great emphasis in the recognition of its members and their achievements.

In conjunction with the ceremony, IMA-EURO and USAREUR will honor and present awards to the winners of the Food Service Soldier and Noncommissioned Officer of the Year competition for this year.

Winner of the Food Service NCO of the Year Award

Sergeant (P) Timothy Sprague, HHC, 3rd Brigade (V Corps, 1ID).

Sprague is a native of Bath, NY. He entered the Army on May 25, 2001. In October 2002, Sprague transferred to Vilseck, Germany. Since then, he has competed at all levels of the Connelly competition while assigned to 1/63 Armor in Kirkuk, Iraq and in joint support of Operation Iraqi Freedom with the 173rd Airborne Brigade. Sprague has competed in various soldier and food service boards. He is currently promotable and working towards becoming a Staff Sergeant.

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Connelly Awards Ceremony

Winner of the Food Service Soldier of the Year Award

Specialist Maria Samantha R. VanDamme, HHD 28th Transportation BN (21st TSC). Spec. VanDamme is a native of Gardena, California and a graduate of Santiago High School. She is currently a student at University of Maryland University College and working on a degree in Visual Arts. She has served in the military for two and a half years and plans to make it a career.

The Food Service NCO/Soldier of the Year program was established in 1993 to recognize excellence in Army food service individuals.

There are two categories of competition: the first is for soldiers in the ranks of private through specialist; the second is from corporal through staff sergeant.

Nominees must be working in their military occupational specialty. Each nominee appears before a board, where they are evaluated on many different aspects of soldiering. Winners and runners-up from this competition are recognized for their knowledge and achievement.

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The U.S. Army Installation Management Agency, Europe (IMA-E) is one of seven regional offices created Oct. 1, 2002, as part of an Army-wide initiative to focus management of Army installations around the world under one organization. IMA-E is responsible for all facets of support for U.S. Army Soldiers and families in Europe from drivers licenses to child care to force protection. As the landlord for all U.S. Army facilities in Europe, IMA-E is responsible for infrastructure and continuing the Army's strong commitment to environmental protection. Its higher headquarters is located in Arlington, Va.